

MINOR CHANGE TO A CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION**AMENDMENT #2****CD-11-10-G****BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION****BIG EDDY-KNIGHT TRANSMISSION PROJECT****COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA****MAY 2, 2012****REQUEST**

BPA has requested the following changes to the Big Eddy Knight Project:

1. Change the location of approximately 400 feet of access road 09D.
2. Establish three work areas outside of existing Right-of-Way near towers 7/3 and 7/5 for the purpose of staging and partial assembly of tower 7/5 and others.
3. Re-establish PUD service to towers 7/5 and 8/1 to provide power to the river crossing beacons. A total of four new wood poles, 45 feet in height and installed to a depth of approximately 5 to 7 feet, are required to establish service. The Klickitat PUD provides utility service to tower 8/1. They will add one additional pole to the existing service line to re-establish the service. Northern Wasco PUD provides utility service to tower 7/5. Since this tower is in a new location a new service line is required. Northern Wasco PUD has an existing utility line running east-west that is immediately south of tower 7/5. They will construct a new spur line approximately 160 feet in length, using three (3) wood poles within the BPA Right-of-Way to tower 7/5.
4. Move one (1) pulling/tensioning site and work area outside of the existing Right-of-Way near Tower 8/1. The Forest Service has not received the property owners' approval.

A full description of this proposal is described in the amended application of March 6, 2012.

FINDING #1

Approved. The area of the proposed reroute for access road 09D was originally examined in the October 12, 2011 field review. The proposed reroute will tie into the existing approved route just inside the buffer zone of wetland (WL-ME13). Over 200 cubic yards of fill material is required and a grading plan was included in the application and reviewed and approved by the Forest Service. This route should not be visible from any KVA's with the exception of the I84 KVA. The effects to scenic resources of the proposed reroute are the same as the original proposal. Similar amounts of disturbance in a different location. All existing conditions apply to the proposed reroute and no further mitigations are required. The proposed re-route of for 400 feet of access road 09D is consistent with the findings of November 23, 2011 and include: E3, E7, E12b, E14, E15, E27, E33, E36, E41; F1, F2, F4; G1, G4, G5, G11 – G13, G16 – G19; and H1.

FINDINGS #2

Approved. This activity is associated with new tower construction. No ground disturbance or digging will occur and all steel will be place on top of blocks. Any disturbance to the area will be reseeded with the previously approved seed mix. This activity is consistent with the findings of November 23, 2011 and includes: E12E, E27; F1, F2, F4; G11 – G13, G16 – G19; and H1. A letter of authorization has been submitted by the landowner.

FINDINGS #3

Approved. This activity is associated with new tower construction. The four wood poles meet the requirements of visually subordination and the effects to scenic resources are less than the effects of towers 7/5 and 8/1. The re-establishment of PUD service for the river crossing beacons is consistent with the findings of November 23, 2011 and includes: E12E, E12, E14, E22, E23, E41; F1, F2, F4; G11 – G13, G16 – G19; and H1.

FINDINGS #4

Denied. The Forest Service cannot authorize this activity until we receive written authorization from the land owner. Authorization for this request will be completed at a later date in a separate minor change consistency determination.

DECISION

The few minor revisions to the findings are shown as deletions as strikeouts and additions shown in bold. As proposed, the proposed modifications for the Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project are consistent with the Management Plan for the CRGNSA. None of the 12 existing conditions of approval from the November 22, 2011 Consistency Determination will be modified or changed. No new conditions of approval are required.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES


A written request for review of the Consistency Determination, with reasons to support the request, must be received within 20 days of the date shown with the Area Manager signature below. Requests for review should be addressed to: Request for Review, Regional Forester, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Work on the proposed development may begin immediately if it complies with the conditions of approval described in this decision (above). The CRGNSA decision expires two years after the date of determination. This decision becomes void on November 22, 2013. A one-year extension may be requested if submitted in writing prior to expiration of the approval. If implementation or a request for an extension has not commenced before that date a new consistency review shall be required.

CONTACT

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area staff prepared an analysis file in conjunction with this project. For further information, contact Lynn Oliver at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, phone: (541) 308-1716, e-mail: loliver@fs.fed.us.


LYNN BURDITT
AREA MANAGER

5/3/2012
Date



5/3/2012



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